

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 36440

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IT, ECON

SUBJ: GISCARD IN ITALY

REF: A. PARIS 35697. B. PARIS 36516 (NOTAL).

1. ELYSEE INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBER TELLS US THAT GISCARD'S CONVERSATIONS WITH ANDREOTTI AND LEONE IN PISA CENTERED ON TWO MAJOR THEMES: FIRST, THERE WAS AN INGOING EXCHANGE OF APPRECIATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES' INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS; SECONDLY, A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ITALY'S AND FRANCE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND OF MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE APPROACHES TO SOLVING THEM, I.E., WITHOUT EITHER COUNTRY'S TAKING MEASURES ECONOMICALLY MENACING TO THE OTHER.

2. AS EXAMPLES OF AREAS IN WHICH DEFENSIVE ITALIAN MEASURES ARE HURTING FRENCH, SOURCE CITED ITALIAN TAX ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE PURCHASES, AND SHARP RELATIVE CHEAPENING OF ITALIAN PRODUCTS, SUCH AS SHOES. GISCARD'S OBJECT WAS TO GET BALL ROLLING TOWARD SOLUTIONS, SUCH AS THAT FOUND FOR ITALIAN WINES.

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3. INEVITABLY QUESTION OF ITALIAN IMF AND EUROPEAN

COMMUNITY LOAN WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. GISCARD MAINTAINED
POSITION THAT FRENCH SUPPORT ON LATTER WAS CONTINGENT
ON ITALY'S ACCEPTING CONDITIONS POSED BY IMF.
ANDREOTTI SEEMED SATISFIED AT THIS RESPONSE, WHICH
CONTINUES TO ENABLE HIM TO SHIFT BLAME FOR UNPLEASANT
DOMESTIC STEPS ABROAD.
RUSH

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